

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 17, 2022, 5:30 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common and Zoom

Present: Selectboard members Richard Baker, Christopher Martin, and Michele Gonzales; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Visitors: Margaret Campbell and Pam Quinn (Recreation Committee), Alana Norway (Animal Control); Rich Phillips and Nick Seifert (Energy Committee), Marcy Kreitz, Sharon Kulsick

At 5:40 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Martin

Changes or additions to the agenda: Contract for Watershed Grant work

Public Comment:

Minutes: approved the minutes of the May 3 and May 10 Selectboard meetings

Playground: Marcy Kreitz from Barre Town explained that she was hit by a ball from the baseball field, while she was on the playground. The ball was hit by a teenager. She believes that he was too big to be on the Little League field. She still has a bruise after several days. She is thankful that a child was not hit. Rich Baker noted that this is the first time that there has been an incident that we are aware of. The current playground has been there for 20 years and it replaced a playground that was there before.

Sharon Kulsick asked who is liable for injury. Rich explained that we are not lawyers and not prepared to discuss a legal question. He noted that in a play area, where kids are playing, there is always a chance that a ball could be flying around. He thinks that we could put signs up. Margaret Campbell stated that whenever there is a ball field, there is the potential for flying baseballs. Sharon suggested that the Town should put up a net or turn the field. Chris stated that the town does not have the budget to put a net over the playground at this time. Pam Quinn stated that she is sorry that this happened but it is such a fluke, there is no way to avoid all risk. Marcy Kreitz stated that she saw the game going on but she trusted that the Town would not have put the playground there if it wasn't safe. Rich stated that we can't stop adults from using the field but we can put up signs. Sharon asked if there is a schedule of games but Pam and Margaret stated that the field is used by locals for pickup games. The Recreation Committee will develop rules for the ballfield, to be posted near the dugouts, and they will order signs for the playground, warning parents about the ball field.

Soccer: Pam Quinn explained that the Recreation Committee would like to have pickup soccer games on the ball field. They would like permission to put soccer lines on the little league field. They will have removable nets. The Board approved. They discussed other possible uses for the property, including a volleyball net and ice skating rink.

Recreation Committee: Chris moved to appoint Margaret Campbell to the Recreation Committee. Rich seconded – all in favor.

Energy Committee: Nick Seifert mentioned that there are price increases coming for solar panels, costs are going up and state incentives are going down, so the economics of doing a solar project will change and we will have to calculate costs closer to the time that we make a decision. If the Board decides to go with the off-taker agreement, that could happen within a short time. Installing a system ourselves will take more time. Bobbi will discuss this with the town attorney and the Board will discuss this at the next meeting.

ARPA: The Energy Committee has some suggestions for the Selectboard, including switching from propane to electricity for the kitchen stove; heat pumps for heating and cooling; improvement to a walk-in cooler for the foodshelf; LED lighting; EV charging station. Rich B stated that the Board is going to have a building committee to discuss improvements to the Old Schoolhouse Common, and many of these suggestions could be addressed by the committee. Rich P stated that building ventilation should be considered.

Lights: Bobbi brought some lighting options for the parking lot. The Board had concerns about how the neighbors would feel about the lighting. Bobbi and Nick will continue to look at options to see if there is one with a motion sensor.

Abuse complaint: The Town received a complaint about alleged animal abuse that occurred in Barre, by a person who has since moved to Marshfield. Alana will contact Barre to try to get more information.

Dog complaints: The Molteni dog was after a neighbor's chicken recently, but the neighbor has not complained. Rich noted that the dog is not aggressive but it is large enough to knock someone over. Alana will contact them again.

Moon Field: The Board received a request to use the Moon Field for a wedding. The Board approved, as long as the field and trails remain open.

Cemetery Rules: Rich revised the cemetery rules based on the Sexton's suggestions for green burials. The Board will review and discuss/adopt them at the next meeting.

ARPA: Rich P. suggested install a water line for the community garden and radar speed signs. He and the Board discussed heating systems and controls.

Macroinvertebrate contract: The Board approved the contract and authorized Bobbi to sign. The Town has a grant for this work.

Expenses, Permits & Payroll: Selectboard members read and approved reports for General Expenses and Payroll.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the May 17, 2022 Selectboard Meeting.
A True Record. Attest, _____, Town Clerk
